What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #172:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello all! It has been a pretty busy week for coin auctions and the next few days will be a continuation. There are some interesting developments that I can share with you on the trade show and auction front. While the auctions for Obolos (Nomos web sale) and NAC Spring sales are upon us, I will briefly touch on both events.

ANA World's Fair of Money (Rosemont, IL) (August 10-14)

It's a go! Our governor JB Pritzker has announced that the state of Illinois will start to open up for larger events. The Stephens Center in Rosemont has also determined that it will reopen in July and start hosting events. I'm excited to see many of you and I hope that some of my non-U.S. based collectors and colleagues will be able to come. The reality is that the show probably should be called the ANA U.S. Fair of Money since many in the world community won't be allowed to come for whatever reason whether it be no vaccine, travel restrictions, etc. That said, it is one small step in the right direction.

Please remember if you plan to come to the show that every effort will be made to be as safe as humanly possible. This means in all probability masks, social distancing and lots of hand sanitiser. For me personally I may even require anyone wanting to view my inventory to wear plastic gloves (I will supply them). This is a cautionary measure for those that haven't been vaccinated. I will be fully vaccinated as of next Wednesday.

I am very excited to see some of you again so please let me know if you will be coming!

ANS Lyceum - Round Two!

I just finished the ANS Lyceum course on Greek coins this last Wednesday. What a delightful way to spend a few hours each week. Peter van Alfen did a tremendous job of presenting the Greek world in an informative yet interesting way. I didn't make it through all the reading but I was relieved to hear that the shared folder will remain available to the participants.

Next week starts another 7 week session with Lucia Carbone and the ANS Executive Director Gilles Bransbourg. This Lyceum will focus on Roman coinage starting around

late for this Lyceum but I hope it continues moving forward and more will take part.

If you want to learn more go to: http://numismatics.org/lyceum/

NAC Auction 123 and Spring Sale 2021 (May 9-10)

I mentioned this sale in my newsletter two weeks ago so hopefully this won't take anyone by surprise. Around this time NAC usually has a wonderful floor sale that most of the European and major U.S. dealers attend. With the pandemic, NAC had to find a sensible solution for the short term and this is why we have an online-only event for the 123 and Spring sale 2021. There are two separate catalogs, one focused on Greek and the other Roman. The Greek coins are all from around 2011-2012 auctions or private sales. They come from a collector, now deceased, who NAC calls "A Collection of a Man in love with Art". This is the second part of the sale. For some of us (including me) we will attend a LIVE sale on June 23-24 which will include some flashier, high brow items from the same collection. The coins in Sunday's sale are attractive, with decent pedigrees and in my opinion low estimates. Based on the strength of the auction market I would be very surprised if things hammered at the estimates. My advice would be to bid realistically on coins keeping in mind the current strength of the market. I would never suggest overpaying but one also needs to appreciate the market conditions. There will be no deals in this auction.

The second sale consists of Roman and Byzantine coins and is much shorter than the Greek portion. The coins are all pleasant but none are huge show stoppers. I think most will find this sale to be reasonable despite the current auction climate.

Chaponniére & Firmenich SA (16 May)

Chaponniére & Firmenich SA is located in Genf, Switzerland and this is their 13th auction. The sale comprises two collectors that were friends. We know them only by their initials: J.M.A.L. and P.J.H.D. (is it me or are there two many initials in both names?). In any case, this sale has quite a few ancient coins to choose from. It starts the sale with a rather rare and large gold Celtic coin estimated at 25,000 CHF. After that things start to get normal in terms of offerings but there are some attractive pieces to be had in the area of Magna Graecia bronzes. The Roman section has a fair amount of aureii and some of considerable quality. This auction is going to be held live in Zurich, but there is also an online component available via the RedPoint website (please note there is a 3% fee added on top of the buyer's premium to use this). Alternatively you can send bids in pre-auction at no additional fee or telephone bidding is available. You can view the auction on *Sixbid* or *Numisbids*.

CNG MBS 117 (19-20 May)

CNG has their 117th mail bid sale on the 19-20th of May. Remember this is not just an online sale. It has a dedicated paper catalog to accompany it. The CNG MBS is typically a step-up from the online sales that occur every two weeks. Alternatively it could also be seen as a step below the annual Triton auction that takes place in New York at the NY International Coin Fair.

This sale has 1,158 ancient, world and U.S. coins and features several individual collections. One noteworthy and slightly sad one is that of the late Dr. Jay M. Galst. The numismatic community was saddened to lose Jay at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Jay was extremely active in the numismatic community and particularly the ANS and the New York Coin Club. I remember seeing him at the last New York International. He had these piercing blue eyes and a wonderful smile. Normally one

pieces available (check out lot 960. One doesn't have to be a U.S. coin collector to appreciate that gorgeous toning). I also absolutely loved looking at the NYNC (New York Numismatic Club for those that hate acronyms, like me!) Gold Medals (lots 970-977). Some of my buddies grace those coins....it got me thinking that it might be fun to have my mug on a coin one day!

Another section which is new for CNG is an impressive group of antiquities. We see a bust of Hadrian (which I should note is from the 19th century and not from the Roman time period). Not ancient but impressive nonetheless, the bust was in a 2014 Skinner auction (lot 219). There follows maps and finally a section on books. The rarely offered and extremely popular Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae (Zurich 1981-1999) is available at a $10,000 estimate.

I've hardly touched upon the ancient coins offered in this catalog. This is probably because the quality and pedigree keep to the quality that CNG has known for several years. Check out the catalog online and if you want a paper copy call the CNG offices or contact me and I'll make sure you get a copy.

Coin of the Week

Severus Alexander. 222-235 AD. Rome, c. 231 AD
AV Aureus, 6.67g (21.5mm, 6h). IMP ALEXAN DER PIVS AVG, laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right / IOVI PRO PVGNATORI, Jupiter, naked except for cloak over shoulder, standing facing, head right, holding up thunderbolt in right hand.

Pedigree: Ex Ars Classica XIII (27 June 1928), lot 1431.

References: RIC IV 234; Calicó 3060; BMCRE 789.

Grade: Some light scratches in the fields. Large flan with good strike and some luster. Good VF

Price: $8,000

re1132

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Severus Alexander was the last emperor from the Severan Dynasty started by Septimius Severus in 193 AD. Due to his age, his mother, Julia Mamaea served as his regent and was instrumental in his reign. In fact, Severus Alexander died along with his mother when the Praetorian Guard murdered them both and threw their bodies in the Tiber. His death set off a series of men vying for the throne. This period was known as the Crisis of the Third Century, a fifty year period of civil unrest, numerous short-term rulers and economic instability.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-empire/severus-alexander-222-235-ad-rome-c-231-ad?rq=re1132

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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